

**REMARKS**

This application claims priority to Japanese Patent Applications 2000-135222, 2000-135224, and 2000-135226, each filed on May 8, 2000. A verified translation of each of these documents accompanies this amendment.

The rejection of claims 1 – 7, 17 – 26, 33, and 35 – 38 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) over Hashimoto et al., U.S. Patent 6,669,809 is respectfully traversed. The rejection of claims 8 – 10, 16, and 32 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Hashimoto et al. in view of Kasai et al., U.S. Patent 6,436,193 is also respectfully traversed. The U.S. filing date of Hashimoto et al. is February 26, 2001. This application claims priority to Japanese Patent Applications 2000-135222, 2000-135224, and 2000-135226. Each of these documents has a filing date of May 8, 2000. Thus, Hashimoto et al. is not a proper reference under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) or § 103(a). Reconsideration and withdrawal of these rejections are respectfully requested.

Applicants note that the claimed invention recites “a holding which holds and rotates a target” in independent claims 1, 8, 16, 17, 24, and 32. By contrast, Applicants note that the apparatus described in Hashimoto et al. holds a substrate in a stationary position during processing. References to spin-coating within Hashimoto et al., such as at Col. 4, lines 60 – 66, appear to refer to a previous spin-coating of a substrate in a separate apparatus.

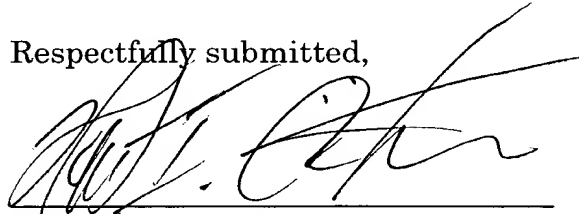
In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, the application is respectfully submitted to be in condition for allowance, and prompt, favorable action thereon is earnestly solicited.

If there are any questions regarding this amendment or the application in general, a telephone call to the undersigned would be appreciated since this should expedite the prosecution of the application for all concerned.

If necessary to effect a timely response, this paper should be considered as a petition for an Extension of Time sufficient to effect a timely response, and please charge any deficiency in fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 05-1323 (Docket #01098651061).

May 26, 2004

Respectfully submitted,



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